

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00574 231440Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 ACDA-10 EB-08 TRSE-00 /104 W
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R 231405Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1139
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0574

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR (KOSYGIN, ALEKSI)
SUBJECT: KOSYGIN "FRIENDLY" VISIT TO FINLAND

REF: HELSINKI 353

1. FIRST DAY OF SOVIET PRIME MIN KOSYGIN'S MARCH 22-26 VISIT TO FINLAND CONSISTED OF LAYING OF WREATHS AT LENIN MEMORIAL AND PAASIKIVI'S GRAVE, TWO-HOUR OFFICIAL TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, AND GALA DINNER HOSTED BY KEKKONEN. MAIN CEREMONIAL PEG FOR ENTIRE VISIT, FORMAL DEDICATION OF LOVIISA I ATOMIC POWER PLANT, TAKES PLACE MIDDAY MARCH 23, FOLLOWED BY DINNER IN HELSINKI HOSTED BY PRIME MIN MIETTUNEN.

2. MFA HAS DESCRIBED VISIT DESIGNATION AS "FRIENDLY" AS SIGNIFYING LEVEL HIGHER THAN ORDINARY BUT BELOW OFFICIAL. KOSYGIN'S OFFICIAL PARTY INCLUDES FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLITSHEV, FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SKATSHOV, DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ZEMSKOV, AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR STEPANOV. KOSYGIN'S GRANDDAUGHTER TATJANA ROTIATSEVA ADDS WELCOME NOTE OF GLAMOR TO ENTOURAGE.
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3. KEKKONEN'S DINNER SPEECH, LARGELY FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC PROGRAM, DID NOT CONTAIN THE WORD "NEUTRALITY" WHICH HAD BEEN MUCH USED DURING EARLIER VISIT BY AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KIRCHSCHLAGER. KEKKONEN EMPHASIZED SIGNIFICANCE, NOT ONLY BILATERALLY BUT ALSO ON EUROPEAN SCALE, OF 1948 FINNISH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION, AND MUTUAL

ASSISTANCE TREATY. KEKKONEN SAID TREATY STILL TIMELY AND IN PREVIOUS FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE CONTINUED IN SPIRIT OF CSCE. KEKKONEN SHOWED FINNISH CONCERN ABOUT BELGRADE CONFERENCE BY SAYING THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IN EUROPE HAD SO MANY POSITIVE ELEMENTS THAT IT WAS IN NO ONE'S INTEREST TO PUT BARRIERS ON THE ROAD OF DETENTE.

4. KOSYGIN ALSO AVOIDED USING "NEUTRALITY" AND PRAISED THE 1948 TREATY WHICH HE SAID GUARANTEED FINNISH INDEPENDENCE. HE CRITICIZED DIRECTLY "OPPONENTS OF THE DECREASE OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION" WHO TRY "TO AWAKE DISTRUST BETWEEN PEOPLES, OPEN OLD WOUNDS BY SPREADING ALL KINDS OF FICTITIOUS ASSERTIONS ABOUT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND SO-CALLED SOVIET DANGER." KOSYGIN CLAIMED SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS SHOWED HOW EUROPE TURNED FROM COLD WAR TO DETENTE. KOSYGIN ALSO CALLED FOR "ENDING ARMS RACE AND MOVING TO DISARMAMENT."

5. HELSINGIN SANOMAT REPORTED THAT "IT IS BELIEVED" FINAL COMMUNIQUE (WE UNDERSTAND NEGOTIATIONS ON TEXT LONG UNDERWAY) WILL BESIDES ECONOMIC QUESTIONS ALSO COVER BILATERAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. HELSINGIN SANOMAT ALSO FOR FIRST TIME REFERRED TO FINNISH-SOVIET LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT AS 12-15 YEAR RATHER THAN 15-YEAR AGREEMENT. FINAL DATE OF FINNISH-SOVIET AGREEMENT HAS, HOWEVER, USUALLY BEEN TAKEN AS 1990.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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